

What is

Human Papillomavirus (HPV)?

HPV is such a common sexually transmitted infection (STI) that nearly all sexually active people contract it at some point in their lives. There are more than 100 types of HPV, approximately 40 of which affect the genital areas.

Most people with HPV have no symptoms, so they usually do not know they have the virus. HPV is generally harmless and goes away on its own, but some types can cause genital warts or cancer. However, it is important to know that even if you have no symptoms, you can transmit HPV to your partner(s).

Most of the time, your body is able to fight off lower-risk strains before they cause serious problems and even before you realize you have the virus. For higher-risk strains, there is a vaccine that can help prevent serious health problems in the future. People between the ages of 9 and 45 can be vaccinated against HPV.

Reference
National Cancer Institute. (2019). The Meaning of Cervical Changes.
Retrieved from: <https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/cuello-uterino/significado-cambios-en-cuello-uterino>.
Planned Parenthood. (2021). Virus del Papiloma humano (VPH).
Retrieved from: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/es/temas-de-salud/enfermedades-de-transmision-sexual-ets/vph>



Access this digital version and other downloadable educational resources.

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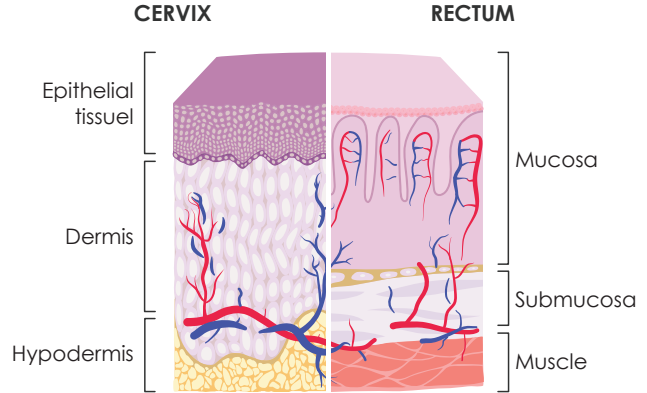
Stages of HPV

Normal tissue

It is considered normal when the cells obtained during the examination show no changes and the result is reported as negative. No further management is necessary; however, your doctor will tell you when your next examination should be.

Recommendations:

- HPV Vaccine
- Use of Prevention Materials



Inflamed tissue or genital wart

Inflammation may be caused by HPV, gonorrhea, chlamydia, or other factors. Genital warts may be caused by HPV.

If not treated promptly, the inflamed tissue could return to normal, remain unchanged, or progress.

Possible treatments:

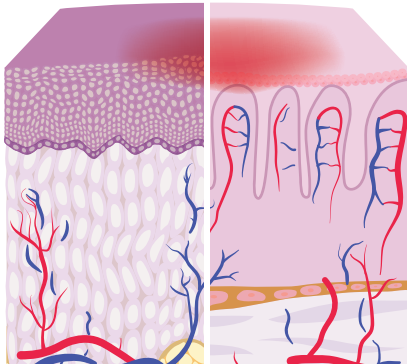
- Medications
- Removal

Possible next steps:

- Colposcopy
- Biopsy

← Normalize

Progress →



Low-Grade Squamous Intraepithelial Lesions (LSIL)

LSIL is sometimes called *mild dysplasia*, which may also be referred to as CIN 1. LSIL means that low-grade changes are present. LSIL changes are usually caused by an HPV infection. Although these changes may go away on their own, additional tests are usually performed to determine whether there are more serious changes that require treatment.

Possible treatments:

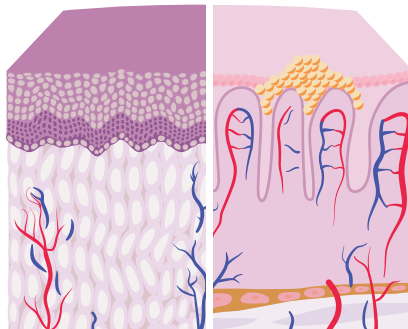
- Medications
- Surgical procedures

Possible next steps:

- Colposcopy
- Biopsy

← Treatment

Progress →



High-Grade Squamous Intraepithelial Lesions (HSIL)

HSIL is sometimes referred to as *moderate or severe dysplasia*. It may also be called CIN 2, CIN 2 and 3, or CIN 3. An HSIL result means that the cellular changes are more severe than those seen with LSIL. These changes are caused by HPV and, if not treated promptly, could develop into cancer.

Possible treatments:

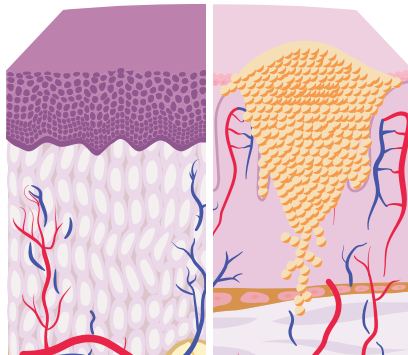
- Medications
- Surgical procedures

Possible next steps:

- Colposcopy
- Biopsy

← Treatment

Progress →



Cancer cells

It is uncommon to find cancer cells (squamous cell carcinoma or adenocarcinoma) in people who undergo regular Pap tests.

Possible treatments:

- Medications
- Surgical procedures

Possible next steps:

- Colposcopy
- Biopsy

← Treatment

Progress →

